

## RESOURCES



MAINE CENTER FOR DISEASE  
CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
[www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies)  
1-800-821-5821



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
[www.maine.gov/ifw](http://www.maine.gov/ifw)  
1-207-287-8000



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES  
[www.maine.gov/agriculture](http://www.maine.gov/agriculture)  
1-207-287-3701



MAINE ANIMAL CONTROL  
ASSOCIATION  
[www.macamaine.com](http://www.macamaine.com)



APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES  
[www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies)  
1-866-4-USDA-WS  
1-207-629-5181

08/2012

# RABIES in Maine



## EDUCATION



## PREVENTION



## CONTROL



Paul R. LePage, Governor

Maine Center for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

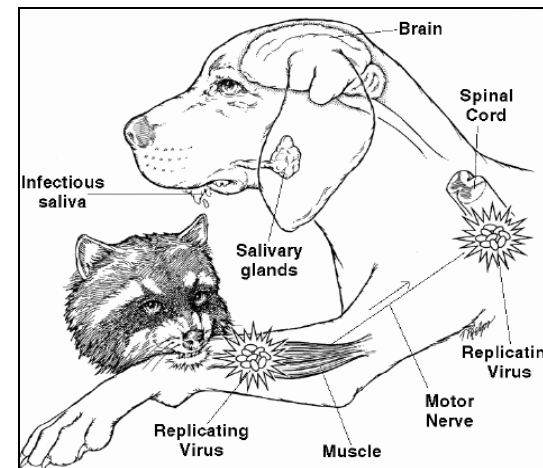
## WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a disease caused by a virus that is deadly to humans and any animal with hair or fur such as a raccoon, skunk, fox, bat, dog, cat, cow, or horse.

### What does the virus do?

Once inside the body, the rabies virus infects nerve cells and spreads to the brain causing nerve and brain damage. An infected animal can spread rabies by biting another animal or human. If not treated, rabies is almost always deadly but treatment works if given right away.

### Rabies infection of a dog from a raccoon bite:



Reproduced with permission from the Indiana Board of Animal Health

## HOW CAN YOU PREVENT RABIES?

- 🐾 **Vaccinate both indoor and outdoor pets**
- 🐾 **Do not approach, handle, or feed wildlife or unknown domestic animals**
- 🐾 **Do not move wildlife from one area to another**
- 🐾 **Report sick, stray, or strange-acting animals**
- 🐾 **If bitten or scratched by an animal, contact a healthcare provider right away**



Raccoon Tracks



Skunk Tracks

## **RABIES SURVEILLANCE**

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services test wild and domestic animals that are thought to have rabies. The purpose of testing is to monitor disease and manage rabies throughout the state.

In Maine, state and local agencies work together to inform the public and protect wildlife, domestic animals, and humans from rabies.

As part of a multi-country program, USDA Wildlife Services vaccinates raccoons, foxes, and coyotes to help reduce the spread of rabies in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Most animal rabies cases in Maine occur in wildlife, especially in raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. Dog bites remain the biggest concern for rabies worldwide.



## **WILDLIFE & DOMESTIC ANIMALS**



Animals that have hair or fur and produce milk can get and spread rabies. It is important not to approach, touch, feed, or move wildlife from one area to another as this could spread rabies.

When an animal has rabies, its behavior cannot be predicted; it may attack, bite, scratch, or lose its fear of people. Even if an animal looks healthy, it can spread rabies or other diseases to other animals or people.

Domestic animals can get rabies from other animals and pass rabies on to humans.

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### **WHAT TO DO**

If a person is bitten or scratched:

- 🐾 Contact a healthcare provider or Maine CDC right away.

If your pet is bitten or scratched:

- 🐾 Contact your veterinarian and Animal Control Officer.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

Rabies is one of the oldest known diseases in the world. Since there is a human vaccine to prevent rabies, many lives have been saved.

You can reduce your risk of rabies exposure by staying away from wildlife. It is important to notify a healthcare provider or Maine CDC right away if you are bitten or scratched by a wild, domestic, or stray animal.

To protect your pet against rabies, keep cats and dogs controlled when outdoors and vaccinate according to your veterinarian's instructions. Maine law requires that all dogs and cats be vaccinated for rabies.

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### **WORLD RABIES DAY**

World Rabies Day is celebrated each year on September 28<sup>th</sup> to promote rabies awareness. Each year, over 50,000 people around the world die from rabies.

[www.worldrabiesday.org](http://www.worldrabiesday.org)



## **TESTING & INFORMATION**

### **RABIES TESTING:**

#### **Maine CDC**

**1-800-821-5821**

[www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/rabies)

[www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab](http://www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab)

### **INFORMATION:**

#### **🐾 DOMESTIC ANIMAL:**

##### **Animal Control Officer**

Call Local Town Office or Police Department

#### **🐾 WILD ANIMAL:**

##### **Maine Warden Service**

Call State Police Dispatch

Gray: 1-800-228-0857

Augusta: 1-800-452-4664

Orono: 1-800-432-7381

Houlton: 1-800-924-2261

#### **🐾 WILD ANIMAL**

##### **SURVEILLANCE:**

##### **USDA Wildlife Services**

207-629-5181

